

Message Text

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TAGS: TGEN, EGNE, PINT, UR
SUBJ: BREZHNEV ON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

REF: MOSCOW A-109

1. BREZHNEV'S MAJOR OPENING SPEECH AT 25TH PARTY CONGRESS IDENTIFIES ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS AS PRIORITY TASK AMONG FIVE KEY PROBLEMS CURRENTLY FACING COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT. (S&T, AGRICULTURE, CONSUMER GOODS AND SERVICES, FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, MANAGEMENT). HE NOTED THAT THERE IS NO MORE URGENT TASKS CONFRONTING ENTIRE SOVIET ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

2. BREZHNEV'S ELABORATION OF NEED TO LINK SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES AND THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL EMBODIMENTS TO PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS DIFFERS MARKEDLY FROM STRONG DEMANDS HE PLACED ON SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY LESS THAN SIX MONTHS AGO DURING HIS SPEECH TO USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, THEN CELEBRATING ITS 250TH ANNIVERSARY. (REF.) THIS TIME HE EXPRESSES TWO IMPORTANT QUALIFICATIONS, WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY SURFACE AS OUTGROWTH OF ONGOING HIGH-LEVEL DEBATE OF THIS "INSTITUTIONALIZED PROBLEM."

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3. FIRST QUALIFICATION IS STATEMENT OF UNDIMINISHED INTEREST

IN FUNDAMENTAL SCIENCE AND CONTINUED CONCERN FOR FURTHERING "BIG SCIENCE." THIS BOW TO CONTINUING DEFIANCE OF "BIG ACADEMY", WHICH AS BEEN UNWILLING TO BUCKLE DOWN TO SOLVE PRODUCTION PROBLEMS OF UNHAPPY MANAGERS IN ENTERPRISES MANUFACTURING HEAVY CONSTRUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT, IS SHREWDLY EXPLAINED BY AGREEDING THAT THERE IS NOTHING MORE PRACTICAL THAN A GOOD THEORY. ACADEMY IS RECOGNIZED AS CENTER OF THEORETICAL RESEARCH AND COORDINATOR OF ALL USSR SCIENTIFIC WORK. (LATTER ASSIGNMENT COULD REPRESENT NEW ENCROACHMENT ON FUNCTIONAL PROVINCE OF STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.)

4. SECOND QUALIFICATION RECOGNIZES THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR "THIS HISTORIC PROCESS" OF PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF SCIENCE IS NOT SOLELY THAT OF SCIENTISTS BUT HAS TO BE SHARED BY THE ENTIRE ECONOMIC SECTOR. BREZHNEV CALLS FOR RADICAL CHANGES IN ECONOMIC STYLE AND METHOD TO ACCOMMODATE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS. HE REQUIRES RESPECT FOR SCIENCE, DESIRE AND WILLINGNESS TO TAKE AND FOLLOW ADVICE. IMPROVED PLANNING AND NEW INCENTIVES ARE CONJURED TO HELP CREATE A NEW "MAGIC TRANSMISSION LINE" WHICH WILL PASS INVENTIONS ALL THE WAY TO MASS PRODUCTION AND STOP OBSOLESCENCE OF YET-TO-BE INTRODUCED PRODUCTS.

5. THERE APPEAR TO BE AT LEAST TWO OTHER SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS WHO FEEL THEY HAVE ANSWERS TO THIS PROBLEM OF MARRYING SCIENCE WITH PRODUCTION, UKRAINIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND AN OBSCURE ORGANIZATION CALLED "SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL SOCIETY"

6. FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN FEBRUARY 16 PRAVDA SINGLES OUT UKRAINIAN ACADEMY AS ONE OF VERY FEW SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS DEVOTED TO SOLVING PROBLEM OF COUPLING ORIGINAL RESEARCH IDEAS TO PRACTICAL REALIZATION, APPARENTLY ANTICIPATING BREZHNEV'S "MAGIC LINE TRANSMISSION" OF INVENTIONS. UKRAINIAN SOLUTION IS ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AMALGAMATED COMPLEX WHERE THIS ACTIVITY IS BROUGHT TOGETHER UNDER A SINGLE JURISDICTION. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT PRAVDA EDITORIAL, WHICH BRISTLES WITH PARTY JARGON AND SLOGANS, WAS MOST LIKELY INSPIRED BY ACADEMICIAN BORIS Y. PATON, PRESIDENT UKRAINIAN SSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE OF ELECTRIC WELDING, IMENI YE. O. PATON (HIS FATHER), MEMBER OF CC OF CPSU SINCE 1961, MEMBER OF PRESIDUM OF 24TH CONGRESS, DEPUTY TO BOTH UKRAINIAN AND USSR SUPREME SOVIET'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNCIL AND MEMBER OF THE UKRAINIAN SUPREME SOVIET. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT V. V. SHCHERBITSKIY, FIRST SECRETARY OF UKRAINIAN CP LAUNCHED FRONTAL ATTACK ON SCST DURING HIS FEBRUARY 25 SPEECH AT 25TH CONGRESS (MOSCOW 1999). BOTH THESE CRITIQUES OF SOVIET SCIENCE COULD WELL HAVE BEEN COORDINATED.

7. ANOTHER ORGANIZATION THAT IS APPARENTLY BEING MOBILIZED IS NAUCHNO-TEKHNICHESKIYE OBSHCHESTVA (SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL SOCIETY -

"NTO"). THIS TWO MILLION PLUS MEMBER GROUPING OF NUMEROUS GEOGRAPHIC AND TECHNICAL INDUSTRY "LOCALS" HELD THE 6TH PLENARY SESSION OF ITS ALL-UNION COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 31, 1975. (JANUARY 1976 ISSUE OF TEKHNICA I NAUKA.) STRENGTHENING OF PLANNED INTRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNIQUES WAS DISCUSSED BY V. PROKHOROV; NTO'S OF OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY WERE REPRESENTED BY DEP MIN. Y. ZAYTSEV; I.G. ALEKSENKO, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF SCST, SPOKE ON AUTOMATION; ACADEMICIAN A. FOKIN, ASSISTANT CHIEF SECRETARY OF USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REPRESENTED THE 160,000 WORKERS IN ACADEMY INSTITUTES. PRESIDENT OF NTO IS ACADEMICIAN A. YU. ISHLINSKIY. INTRODUCATION OF NTO ORGANIZATION BY SOVIETS INTO "S&T IDEA-TO-PRODUCTION" PROBLEM-SOLVING MAY INDICATE PARTY'S INABILITY FIND A CLEAR SOLUTION TO THIS PERENNIAL PROBLEM OF SOVIET NONMILITARY INDUSTRY.
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